

# Missouri Agriculture

**D**iversified is the word commonly used to describe farming in Missouri. The state is blessed with fertile soils, ideal for crop and livestock production. Corn, wheat and grain sorghum are grown throughout the state. Soybeans thrive in the southeast, northwest, north central, and northeast parts of the state. Fields in the southeast yield cotton and rice, while the river regions produce grains, fruits and vegetables. The Ozarks' hilly and wooded areas provide timber, pasture and favorable weather for growing fruits and vegetables.

Large quantities of beef cattle and hogs are raised north of the Missouri River and on the western side of the state. Missouri's poultry industry continues to grow, contributing significantly to the state's agricultural output.

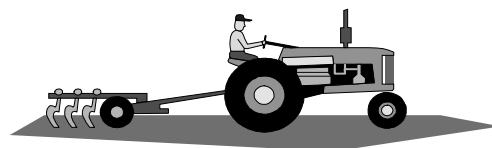
## Missouri's Top Commodities

<u>Crops</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>% of U.S. Total</u>
Hay, excluding alfalfa	2	8.4
Hay, all	3	5.2
Sorghum, grain	4	4.3
Rice, all	6	5.2
Soybeans	6	6.2
Watermelon	8	3.4
Corn for grain	9	3.1
Cotton	9	3.6
Cottonseed	9	3.6
Winter Wheat	10	3.0

<u>Livestock</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>% of U.S. Total</u>
Beef cow operations	2	7.2
Cattle operations	2	6.6
Beef cows	2	6.4
Calf crop	2	5.5
All cows	3	5.3
Turkeys raised	4	9.4
Ice cream (low fat)	4	4.5
Milk cow operations	6	3.8
Hogs and pigs	6	5.1
Cattle and calves	6	4.7
Hog operations	10	3.7
Total cheese production	11	1.3

## Quick Facts About Missouri Agriculture

- Missouri ranks second in number of farms with 107,000 in 2002. Average farm size: 279 acres.
- Missouri's farm cash receipts for 2002 totaled \$4.4 billion.
- More than 15 percent of Missouri's total labor force is employed in the agriculture industry. That is more than 400,000 Missouri workers.



- Almost \$1.18 billion in farm marketings came from overseas exports in 2002.
- Missouri ranked 15th in the value of agricultural exports in 2002. Soybeans and soybean products were the state's largest exports in 2002, totaling \$472 million. Feed grains, wheat and cotton followed.
- The Missouri Department of Agriculture operates trade offices in Mexico and Taiwan and has access to trade and representative offices in Brazil, Chile, Germany, Ghana, Japan, Korea, Thailand, and the United Kingdom.



For more information, visit the Missouri Agricultural Statistics Service online at <http://agebb.missouri.edu/mass> and the Missouri Department of Agriculture at [www.mda.mo.gov](http://www.mda.mo.gov) or call (573) 751-4645.



**T**he forest products industry employs many Missourians and contributes significantly to the state's economy. More than 30 percent of Missouri (approximately 14 million acres) is forested. The state is a leading producer of wooden pallets, charcoal and walnut products. Lumber, hardwood flooring, barrels, and treated wood products are exported to other countries.

### Did you know ...



A dairy cow annually consumes more than 2.2 tons of corn?



Honey was once so valuable that Missouri and Iowa entered into a seven-day Honey War? Missouri ranks 27th in the U.S. in honey production, with 954,000 pounds of honey produced in 2002.



The Bootheel is home to the state's only rice milling operation? Missouri ranks sixth in rice production.



An acre of farmland, which is about the size of a football field, can produce 14,000 ears of sweet corn, 35,000 oranges, 36,000 pounds of potatoes, 24,000 heads of lettuce, 2,800 loaves of bread and 266 pairs of blue jeans?



Iced tea was first introduced at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis, Missouri? A fair vendor was selling hot tea, a very popular drink at the time. However, it wasn't selling well during the hot St. Louis summer, so he poured it over ice and it was an instant hit!

### Missouri is Home to Key Agribusinesses:

Missouri is home to more than 2,000 agricultural businesses. Monsanto Chemical Company and Ralston Purina are just two examples of such businesses serving farmers worldwide. In addition to Monsanto's agricultural chemicals and Ralston's animal feeds, the companies supply seeds, feed, grain storage and a variety of other products and services.

Some of the nation's largest farm organization are headquartered in Missouri. The National Corn Growers Association and the American Soybean Association are both headquartered in St. Louis, while Dairy Farmers of America, the nation's largest dairy cooperative, is based in Kansas City.

### More Missouri Agriculture Trivia Tidbits



•Missouri is the black walnut capital of the world. The meat is used for cooking while the shell is used in ceramics, cleaners, paint and plastics.



•Missouri is a large supplier of Jonathan and Golden and Red Delicious apples, producing 36 million pounds of apples in 2002.



•More Missouri farmland is devoted to soybean production than any other crop. In fact, if you took all the acres of corn, wheat, rice, potatoes, tomatoes, and other major crops combined, you would still be nearly one million acres short of the number of acres devoted to soybean production, which is five million acres.



•Missouri's grape industry produced 2,900 tons of grapes in 2002. This Missouri produce is marketed fresh and made into jams, jellies, and juices.



For more information on Missouri agriculture, visit the Missouri Department of Agriculture online at [www.mda.mo.gov](http://www.mda.mo.gov)